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VOL. 102 JANUARY, 1953 (First Issue Aug. 1, 1851) NO. 1

Method And Task From The Superintendent's Desk

My first word must be one of thanks for the shower of letters, notes, and personal greetings of welcome to Northern California and to the office of Superintendent of this Conference. These have warmed my heart and given me an extra feeling of gratitude that I have been led into your service and this task.

My second word must be one of appreciation for the introduction to the task given me by Dr. Gill. For two months we have worked side by side until the close of his term, December 31st. In transmitting the multitudinous details of procedure and work-in-progress, he has been a patient and careful teacher. If I failed to gain from him a knowledge of some procedure or information, the failure is mine, for he did his best in the limited time we had together. He left the office at the end of the year with the files, records, lists, and the financial books tidy and in order.

It would be presumptuous for any man who has not been previously a member of this Conference to assume he knew all the facts and the answers so that he could present at the outset a ready-made plan and program for the Conference. I come to this task with only a few principles to guide us in the direction of a positive program.

First, this Conference of churches and members is a family of God and only a part of the great family of all the children of God. It is the spirit and presence of God that must move in our midst, and in the following of Christ we will be bound together.

Second, the Conference exists for the sake of the churches and not the churches for the Conference. The supreme task of the Conference and its staff is to work for the welfare and growth of the churches and to enrich and vitalize the religious life of all who belong to our churches. We are here to do the work of Christ and extend his spirit. That is our purpose.

I have been in charge of churches of all sizes and conditions for nearly 22 years. I trust that that experience will have been adequate for this task which, while I did not seek it, is the kind of work I have long felt I should like to do.

The Congregational office of Superintendent is not a dictatorship in which plans and ultimatums are handed down. By definition and organization this Conference is a cooperative enterprise built upon love, understanding, good will, and a common concern. All the Christian graces are needed to give our efforts success.

I come to a Conference which is solid, solvent, and united in spirit. I aim to keep it that way. Present methods of operation and general outlines of program will be maintained as long as they prove to be practical, efficient, and appropriate. Changes will come and future opportunities will be met as we counsel together. I have only one passion—the growth and welfare of our churches and ministers.

Wm David Pratt

OROVILLE MIDWINTER DRAWS 230 P. F. YOUTH

More than 220 young people from fifty of the Northern California Congregational churches attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference held at the First Congregational Church of Oroville December 28 to 31. There, under the leadership of Elizabeth Helz, Minister of Education of the San Carlos Church, they explored the theme "Facing Our Faith." Keynoter Gordon Foster spoke on the topics: "What I Believe About God," "What I Believe About Man," and "What I Believe About Jesus." Especially stimulating was his discussion of the subtle science of semantics, in which he helped the delegates to see that they must not confuse their verbal symbols for the Reality which lies beyond.

The conference opened with an address on the same theme by Superintendent Pratt. He spoke on "What I Believe About the Church," likening the inner core of the church to the family of God. The young people exercised their minds in eight different class groups, in eight buzz sessions on P. F. problems, and in the business session, under the direction of President Dave Perry. They voted to adopt a modification of the National Pilgrim Fellowship "Three Commission Plan," with co-chairmen for Social Action, Missionary Action, and Christian Youth Fruit Camp, serving together in the area of P. F. Action, and co-chairmen for Recreation and Interdenominational Action making up the Fellowship Commission.

Recreational activities of the conference included a trip to the snow country at nearby Brush Creek, trips to the Chinese Temple, the National Wood Processing plant, and the Western Pacific shops and roundhouse. A very fine party was held at the Elks Club ball-room on one evening of the conference.

High point for all who participated was the moving Communion Service, served in an overflowing sanctuary of the Oroville church. Rev. Walter Hanne of Reno and Rev. Charles Spencer of Oroville presided at the Communion Table, assisted by eight young men of the Pilgrim Fellowship. A youth choir under the direction of Kiyoshi Ii, beloved PSR student from Japan, whom the young people came to know at Cazadero this summer, added much to the beauty of the service.

GILL TO BE INTERIM AT HONOLULU CHURCH

Dr. Harley H. Gill has accepted an invitation to be interim pastor of the famous Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu and with Mrs. Gill will sail for Hawaii early in February. The request for his services came just as Dr. Gill was closing his duties as superintendent of the Conference and planning the first year of his retirement. It is expected that the interim pastorate will last at least six months and perhaps longer.

The 400 members of the Church of the Crossroads represent a wide distribution of racial and cultural backgrounds. It is one of the most thriving Congregational churches in Hawaii. A furnished parsonage and a car await the Gills along with the traditional Hawaiian welcome.

In the meantime, the Gills are selling their home on San Antonio Avenue in Berkeley and preparing for their new adventure in Christian service. On Sundays, January 11 and 18, he is supplying the pulpit of the Redwood City Church.

PASTORS' CONF.

The Thirty-first Annual Pastoral Conference and E. T. Earl Lecture will be held at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, on February 10, 11, and 12, 1953, announced Dr. Ralph Douglas Hyslop, General Chairman of Arrangements.

For many years this interdenominational gathering of ministers and church workers from all the western states has brought to Berkeley many of the most noted religious leaders of the world through the E. T. Earl Lectureship Foundation.

For the 1953 Conference the Earl Lectures will be given by Dr. Halford Luccock of Yale University and Charles W. Ranson, great Irish religious leader.

Included in the three-day Conference will be workshops and refresher classes led by outstanding leaders from various denominations.

A capacity attendance is expected at the Conference. Early registration is advised and should be sent to Mr. Allen Lovejoy, Controller, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley 9, California. The registration fee is $1.50 for single registrants and $2.00 for married couples.

CAZADERO SUMMER DATES

June 13-20: **Eastbay Pilgrim Fellowship**
June 20-27: **Student Camp**
June 20-27: **Primitive Camp for 9th Graders**
June 27-July 4: **North and South Central Pilgrim Fellowship**
July 4-11: **Redwood-Upper Bay-San Joaquin Pilgrim Fellowship**
July 11-18: **Westbay Pilgrim Fellowship**
July 18-25: **First Family Camp**
July 25-Aug. 1: **First Junior Camp**
August 1-8: **First Junior High Camp**
August 8-15: **Second Junior High Camp**
August 15-22: **Second Family Camp**
August 22-29: **Second Junior Camp**
August 22-29: **Senior High Primitive Camp**
August 30-Sept. 8: **State Pilgrim Fellowship Camp**

BUILDING LOAN FUND GOALS ARE ACCEPTED

"A Declaration of Purpose" is a simple form on which each Congregational church in America is asked to indicate its intention with regard to the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign. Each church is asked to indicate on the declaration the total amount the church will endeavor to assume and also the manner in which the funds will be raised and remitted. The share in the national campaign expected of Northern California Congregational churches is $147,000.

The list below is the first to be published. It will be a cumulative list with additional names added from month to month as the Declarations of Purpose are received. The list is incomplete as of this time. Other churches have accepted goals but have sent to the Conference only an informal or verbal word. Those starred have sent Declarations of Purpose to the Church Building Society.

Auburn	$ 1,195
Berkeley, Chinese	547
Berkeley, First	10,608
*Berkeley, North	1,785
*Campbell	1,364
Cedarville	507
Eagleville	254
*Eureka	1,722
*Fairfax	1,096
Loomis	1,200
*Martinez	3,030
*Oakland, New Pilgrim	1,070
Oroville	1,988
*Palo Alto	1,000
*Petaluma	1,745
*Porterville	1,979
*Ripon	502
*Sacramento, Oak Park	462
*Sacramento, Pioneer	7,350
Sacramento, Sierra Arden	1,500
*San Francisco, First	6,506
San Francisco, Pilgrim	1,042
San Francisco, St. John's	233
*San Jose, First	2,384
*Sebastopol	1,515
*Sonoma	351
Soquel	1,007
Stockton	3,157
*Sunol	600
*Tulare	1,550

A number of churches are accepting their goals at the annual meeting of the church, and it is anticipated that the above list will be doubled in the next issue of The Pacific.

May we ask that the Declarations of Purpose be signed and mailed to the Church Building Society in New York as promptly as possible. A church-by-church list of those responding will also be published in Advance.

O. C. W. M. GOALS

Chairman Donald F. Gaylord reports that 31 churches have accepted their 1953 OCWM goals in full. Another 23 churches have accepted goals for 1953 which are short of the suggested goal for the church. "We are doing somewhat better than last year," writes Mr. Gaylord, "although I am not by any means satisfied." During January, other churches will be voting acceptances at annual meetings.

The assignment of suggested goals and acceptance of them by individual churches is now an established and accepted procedure in this and in most other conferences. Each year more of our churches accept a goal to work toward and thus enable the Conference Appropriations Committee to plan accurately for the coming year.

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Rev. William David Pratt, Editor

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FINAL 1952 BENEVOLENCE LIST PRINTED NEXT MONTH

The usual church-by-church listing of benevolence contributions is omitted from the January issue since the books are held open until the 10th of the month for 1952 receipts. The complete tabulation would be really too late for inclusion in this issue. Watch the February number for final 1952 reports on O.C.W.M. and the Thank Offering.

No. Cal. People At Cleveland Conference

The annual meeting of the Missions Council will draw a number from this Conference to Cleveland, where the sessions will be held, January 26 to 29. At the same time and place many of the national Boards and Committees will be holding meetings.

Mr. Pratt will attend the Superintendents' Conference also, January 23 to 25, and meet with numerous other committees. Mr. Lindsay will attend meetings of the Superintendents' Conference and also those of Christian Education leaders.

Rev. Benton S. Gaskell will attend as chairman of the National Committee on Our Christian World Mission. Rev. William E. McCormack will attend the meeting of the national Committee on the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign. Mrs. Gail Cleland and Mrs. W. B. Buckham will attend the State Women's Presidents' meetings.

Rev. Stanley U. North will be away from his San Francisco office for the Church Building Loan Fund to attend meetings of the Board of Home Missions and the CBLF. President Stuart Leroy Anderson will attend as a vice-president of the American Board.

Mrs. Scott Haymond will go to Cleveland as member of the General Council Nominating Committee and Rev. Vere V. Loper as member of the Executive Committee.

PESCADERO — Occupancy of the new building awaits only the installation of the heating unit, and the congregation is looking forward to using the added facilities both for services and social events. The pastor drove through water over the hubs of his automobile wheels to conduct services on December 14. The levee constructed last summer served to keep water from the church. Additional gravel mix has been placed on the lot to raise it permanently above the annual flood level. Mr. Joseph E. Krueger is the minister.

"CAZ" DEVELOPS UNDER VOLUNTEERS

In the eight years since "Caz" has been a part of our Conference almost incalculable amounts of time, energy and money have been given by our people to the improvement of the camp facilities. From the beginning, improvements have been the result of cooperative effort on the part of our churches. Part of that effort has been given to the raising of money for the camp. Cazadero's share of the Centennial Fund was $25,000. Almost $20,000 of this has now been used in the purchase of a new truck for the camp, in building a large section of new road, plus two new bridges, and in the construction of the swimming pool. In addition to this, six new cabins have been built, a large walk-in refrigerator has been purchased, two generators acquired, and the P.G.&E. power lines brought into the camp.

While the gifts of many people in our churches have been a big factor in developing the camp, even more important have been the many hours of devoted labor which have made Cazadero truly **our** camp. Volunteers from our churches have built cabins, installed electric wiring and plumbing, poured concrete, built bridges, repaired everything from roofs to foundations of existing buildings, painted walls, inside and out, and overhauled camp vehicles. Miles of hog fence have been removed, miles of trail built, hundreds of yards of dirt removed for swimming pool and drainage ditches. One man brings his bulldozer 150 miles and spends days of his time in vital construction about the camp.

Much of this work has been done by week-end work parties from our churches. Typical of such a "party" was a group from our San Mateo church, who on a recent week-end laid the planking for the new bridges and reroofed a portion of the manager's residence, on successive days.

The young people, too, have made a major contribution to the improvement of the camp. For example, last summer ten of them spent a week in peeling the logs for the new bridges, at a saving of nearly $100 on the cost.

Some individuals have given outstanding service to the camp. One person spends hours in voluntary bookkeeping work. Another, an engineer, brings his genius to studying the problems of construction about the camp and working on their solution. Another, an architect, has drawn plans for camp buildings and improvements.

All of this is part of the cooperative effort and hard work which is typical of Cazadero. It is part of what our young people call "The Caz Spirit."

CONCORD, HILLCREST — The Every Member Canvass held in November and December received over $7,000 for current expenses and benevolences. This is an excellent response from a church which also has gone through two major building fund drives in the last 14 months. Work on the new educational unit should be completed about February 1. This will permit a revised Sunday morning schedule with more flexibility for program. The Sunday School sessions are overcrowded. Classes which meet on the patio in fair weather have had to be housed inside. The minister, Robert L. Carlson, has been giving leadership to the Church Building Loan Fund as co-chairman for the Upper Bay Association.

Gills Say "Thanks"

There wasn't room in the December issue for even a paragraph expressing our thanks for the many kindnesses shown us. There wouldn't be room in any of the issues of The Pacific, and words would not permit us to adequately tell our many friends how we feel about the testimonial dinner, about the lovely volume of warm, friendly letters which came, about the many other letters which reached us personally, and about the very generous and unexpected gift of money. We are very happy, but we also feel very humble. If there were some truly eloquent way of expressing our gratitude, we would certainly search the dictionary to find it. We can only say, "Thank you, and may God's richest blessing be yours. You will ever be in the innermost sanctum of our hearts."

—Harley H. and Claribelle F. Gill

NACE IS ORDAINED

Theodore Keifer Nace was examined and received ordination to the Christian ministry at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley on Monday, December 15, 1952. Mr. Nace is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and of Yale University Divinity School. He has previously served as assistant pastor of the Spring Glen Congregational Church, in Hamden, Connecticut, and summer pastor at the E and R Church of Tillamook, Oregon. He had been called in the fall to become minister to children and youth of Berkeley First Church. The council of ordination met to examine Mr. Nace with Rev. J. Hood Snavely as moderator and Rev. Williston Wirt as scribe.

At the ordination service held at 7:30 o'clock in the chapel, Mr. Snavely reported the decision of the council. The scripture was read by Rev. Franklin L. Fesperman, vows of ordination were presented by Rev. Harley H. Gill, the prayer was offered by Rev. Stuart L. Anderson, the charge to the minister was given by Rev. Vere V. Loper, the right hand of fellowship was extended by Rev. Robert L. Carlson, the charge to the congregation was given by Rev. George Lindsay. The sermon was preached by Rev. I. George Nace, General Secretary, Division of Home Missions, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., and father of Theodore.

Theodore and Lovina Nace and their daughter Martha live at 836 Craft Avenue, El Cerrito.

WEAVERVILLE — Through an "Abiding Memorial" fund, the church purchased a rich red runner and carpet to cover the pulpit platform, which improves the appearance of the church. A rubber rug for the entrance was also installed. At Christmas vespers the choir appeared in their new robes. The church was filled for the service, which was under the direction of Mr. William Finster. On the Sunday before Christmas four members were received, two of them young people. These are a few highlights of the church. At the annual Christmas dinner for the Ladies' Aid Society and their husbands and friends, about sixty were in attendance. The ministers in charge are the Rev. Walter Girdner and the Rev. Mrs. Walter Girdner.

RENO—Rev. W. W. Hanne has resigned as minister to take up a church extension project with the Presbyterians at Las Vegas, Nevada.

PENNGROVE — The past month has been an active one in the life of the church. Rev. Bramwell Mathes from Ceylon spoke at the monthly fellowship evening. On Universal Bible Sunday five new members were received into the church, and that evening the Pilgrim Fellowship was host to the Cotati Pilgrim Fellowship. The Christmas pageant on December 21 was under the joint direction of Mrs. Kenneth Wehr and Mr. Merrill Brians, the Church School superintendent. A service Christmas Day featured carols sung by the junior choir. Both of these services were very well attended. Plans for an expanded church program for 1953 will be revealed at the annual meeting on January 16. Mr. Philip Brink is the pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, ST. JOHN'S—A steady growth through the fall months brought the church to the realization that additional room must be found to accommodate not only the Sunday morning congregations but also the church school. The surge of the Christmas season found the church with standing room only and little of that. An early Christmas morning communion service filled the sanctuary. Financially the church is better off than it expected to be at this time in its development. During 1952 the church doubled its membership, reporting at the end of the year 144 members and all of them active. Two morning services are proving to be necessary and worthwhile. Horst R. Jeschke, minister.

MODOC LARGER PARISH—Rev. Ralph V. Conard reports a three-day visit from Rev. George Lindsay, director of Christian Education, in which he preached at the Alturas Church, met with church school teachers in Eagleville, who were recruited from Fort Bidwell and Cedarville also, and met with the Pilgrim Fellowship group. The organization of the community church at Fort Bidwell is complete. Twenty-one signed the charter membership roll which will remain open until after Easter. The church will apply for recognition by the Sacramento Valley Association.

EL CERRITO, MIRA VISTA—The church completed its fiscal year with the budget of $15,396 met in full. A net gain of 41 members was registered to elevate the membership roll to an even 150. Sunday School and church attendance also registered gains during the year. For the fall months of 1952, church attendance averaged 106 with church school enrollment at 204. A good Christmas was reported with a fine pageant and crowds at all events. The Conference provided funds to gravel the south parking lot. Gifford M. Webster is minister.

SUNOL—The pastor, Rev. Robert B. Whitaker, has moved into the parsonage at Sunol which has been completely redecorated. Work installing chancel furnishings and making alterations on the sanctuary has been completed except for refinishing the pews. A memorial gift has provided cross, candlesticks, and vases for the altar.

SONOMA—Rev. and Mrs. Ernest E. Morrill are winning their way into the affection of the church and community, and the response to their leadership is evidenced in the complete redecoration of the parsonage and a successful Every Member Canvass.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

OAKLAND, FIRST—Recently the oung people's groups enjoyed hear- ng Rev. Kiyoshi Ii and seeing his ictures on Japan. High school groups rom Eden Congregational Church in Hayward and from Bayview Villa Community Church in Oakland were nvited to hear him. The Fellowship Club for high school young people ad a "project night," when scrap ooks were made for the Veterans' Hospital.

Three hundred sixty-nine ladies at- ended the Christmas luncheon of the Womens' League and the beautiful ageant in the sanctuary presented by he Mothersingers directed by Nancy Pauline Turner.

December 14, the entire time of oth Sunday services was given to the hoir for a glorious program of Christ- nas music. Christmas baskets were lanned as usual for distribution in he parish.

Christmas Sunday the church school, n place of the early service, presented play, "The White Angel," assisted by the junior choir. The special Christmas offering at the second service was for the Church Building Loan Fund for helping Congregational churches in Northern California.

The young people's groups joined with the youth groups from all over Oakland in an "Interdenominational Carol Sing" from excursion boats on Lake Merritt. Later, the groups re- turned to this church for fellowship and refreshments.

Dr. Clarence Reidenbach is pastor and Rev. Robert Knowles assistant pastor.

BERKELEY, NORTH — This church celebrated its 60th anniversary with a week-long series of events the first week of December. On Friday, December 7, an overflow crowd jammed the dining room and witnessed a dramatic presentation of historic highlights in the sanctuary afterward. An historic booklet has been pub- lished, authored by Dr. Ernest B. Babcock, long-time "pillar" of North Church. The goal of "60 new members for our 60th year" was exceeded, as 69 responded to the roll call of the church clerk. The church has over- subscribed its OCWM quota of $2,250 for 1953 and has cash in hand to cover the first half of the new Building Loan Fund. North Church was founded in 1892, having developed from a Sun- day School started by the father of the present pastor, Dr. Williston Wirt.

BERKELEY, CHINESE — The church has accepted its quota on the Church Building Loan Fund and filed its Declaration of Purpose. The Thanksgiving Sunday offering and the proceeds from the Thanksgiving din- ner sponsored by the college-age group were applied to the Fund goal. For the first time the church has a regular weekly choir under the direc- tion of Mrs. Teng Gee. The choir provided special Christmas music for the season. The Chinese-American Club, a women's organization, donated the proceeds of a Christmas party for the purchase of a filmstrip and slide projector and a screen. The pastor, Dr. Hoh Yam-tong, and his wife have received their visas which will entitle them to permanent residence in the United States.

ALAMEDA—A dinner was held to honor retiring superintendent, Dr. Gill. Christmastide services included a beautiful concert of Christmas music by the choir supported by soloists and instrumentalists. Francis P. Randall is minister.

Greetings to the Free Cross Church of Fresno on its 60th anniversary, December 7, were brought by this group of church leaders pictured in the chancel of the church. (Photo courtesy of Casper Leisle, Jr.)

FRESNO, FREE CROSS—A week of program and services marked the 60th anniversary of the Free Evangel- ical Lutheran Cross Church under the leadership of its pastor, Rev. Carl J. Maier. The church was founded in 1892 when a large group of Germans, who had previously immigrated to Russia, came to America and settled in Fresno. An 88-page anniversary book was published giving a complete history of the church and its many organizations, a pictorial record of buildings, groups, and pastors, descrip- tion of the present program offered by the church, and testimonial greetings from many sources. Capacity crowds attended the nightly meetings during the week to witness on one evening an historical pageant and on other evenings to hear distinguished guest speakers. Among them were Rev. Benjamin Kissler, Rev. Carl F. Brost, Rev. James M. Malloch, Rev. Edwin Gutjahr, Rev. Phillip Reich, Rev. George Kissler, Rev. Harley H. Gill, and Rev Wm. David Pratt.

MODESTO — Working drawings for the first unit of the new church are taking shape. It is expected that bids will be sought in March and con- struction will begin in April. It is estimated that the building will cost $40,000. The church has set a goal to reach 100 members by Easter. Church school enrollment has in- creased from 25 to 93 during the fall, and an adult class has been added to the church school. A budget of $7,389 has been accepted by the congregation. Rev. Frank B. Loper is the pastor.

LA SELVA BEACH—The Wom- en's Guild processed and shipped four cartons of clothing including one car- ton of toys to the Delmo community in Missouri. The toys were given by children of the church. The church school presented a Christmas enter- tainment for the entire community attended by over 150 parents and children. It was a tableau arranged and presented by Mr. Arthur Tindall. Edward L. Spaulding is the minister.

COTATI—Plans are being made to completely alter the building used for religious education and social activities under the direction of laymen of the church. Superintendent Pratt recently visited the church school and consult- ed with the pastor, Mr. John C. Heal, and religious education leaders. He will occupy the pulpit March 15.

LODI, FIRST—The Mayflower and Friendship groups have completed the renovation of Plymouth Hall from basement to attic. Warm colors, fresh paint, and bright wallpaper have been applied to make the Sunday School rooms attractive. A bazaar sponsored by the Women's Fellowship and shared by every church group was held on December 6. Fourteen new members were received on December 7. A group of youth organizd as the Plymouth Players presented the drama, "Why the Chimes Rang," December 14 and 21; and they have indicated their will- ingness to put on this play in any church where they may be invited. The 80th anniversarv of the church was observed on December 31. The program began at 9:00 p.m. with a social hour, including refreshments, filming of a movie, recording of voices, exhibits, and the wearing of old-time costumes. From 10:00 to 11:00, an anniversary service of re- membrance and dedication was held with a memorial and communion service.

BERKELEY, FIRST—The church devoted its Christmas offering to the Church Building Loan Fund. On December 7, 28 new members joined the church. On January 8, the church was host to a Bay Area meeting of Congregationalists to hear Dr. Tru- man Douglass present the cause of the Church Building Loan Fund. Dr. Vere V. Loper, pastor, gave the opening address for the Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference of Southern California at Pasadena.

PORTERVILLE — "Annual Vol- untary Pledge Day" as observed re- cently resulted in 109 advance pledges on 1953 budget for a total of $6,908.20, the largest amount prompt- ly subscribed since this plan was adopted. The Building Loan Fund quota is a part of the annual budget for the next two years. Willis L. Goldsmith is pastor.

SANTA ROSA—A loan of $30,000 was granted by the Board of Home Missions which insures action on the relocation of the church from E Street to the growing north section of the city near the junior college. The church has raised $19,000, and the sale of the present property will add considerably to the resources needed to construct a first unit. Working drawings have been completed. Wil- liam E. Welch is minister

TULARE—The Family Night Din- ner for December became an Advent- Christmas celebration, and a special effort was made to bring out all fami- lies. The dining room was packed full, and the children held the spot- light. To promote the proper attitude toward Christmas, the teachers planned a gift-giving occasion rather than a gift-receiving one for the children. After the dinner, everyone went into the auditorium where a little Christmas play entitled, "Unto the Least of Them," was presented by the children under the direction of Mrs. Harold Cram, who also wrote the play. All joined in the singing of carols, after which Santa Claus appeared. It seems he was on his way to the North Pole and was gathering gifts for children of migrants. He thanked the people for two large sacks of toys, candy, and other gifts which he took with him.

All departments of the church par- ticipated in the assistance to migrants this year. The women's group at their silver tea meeting in November heard the Rev. Mr. Reyes describe their work among migrants. Many gifts of materials resulted from this meeting as well as a better understanding of the needs and situation of the migratory workers. Harold F. Cram is pastor.

CAMPBELL—1952 was a good year in the Campbell church. Forty-five new members were added, adult at- tendance at church averaged 157 per Sunday service, $4,000 was paid on the parsonage mortgage clearing up this debt, a $200 tape recorder was purchased, asphalt tile floors and new automatic heater were installed in the basement rooms, an active men's club was organized, a part-time secretary was employed, and a part-time director of religious education was authorized by the 1953 budget, which is one-third larger and fully subscribed. In addi- tion the church has taken an option on a new church site of 4.2 acres on Budd Avenue, a half mile west of the Santa Clara-Los Gatos Road. The option was secured after two years of study by the planning board and trus- tees, during which time ten sites were considered. The minister is also State Chaplain of the California National Guard and Cadet Corps, with state- wide supervision of the other chap- lains in these organizations. His wife has been visiting in eastern states from Canada to Florida for the past four months.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH—Rev. Philip G. Murray has resigned from the pastorate here to accept a call to the First Congregaional Church of Riverside, California, and he will be- gin his new work on March 1. In the three years of his pastorate at Ply- mouth, Mr. Murray has increased church attendance remarkably as well as led the church to new strength in every department. He leaves the Conference with the good wishes of all his colleagues in the ministry and with the gratitude of all for his service to the activities of the Conference as well as inspiring leadership to this church.

ANTIOCH—Members of the Men's Club worked on two projects: the building of a permanent portable stage for pageants and other uses, and a remodeling of the parish house base- ment for class use. A large delegation of young people attended the Mid- winter at Oroville. Mr. and Mrs. Starr Daily conducted a "spiritual workshop" January 12-14. Rev. Her- bert Dimock is the pastor.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

MRS. JOHN HARRISON, Correspondent

The next regular meeting of the Federation of Congregational Women of Northern California will be held on Thursday, January 15, 1953, at the First Congregational Church, Oakland.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR WISH TO ALL

There was no meeting in December, but, due to limited space, some of the reports given at the November meeting had to be omitted or given only briefly in the last issue. This is a continuation of reports and re-emphasis on some important items that need our attention.

It was surprising that only eleven church groups had sent in their contributions to the Federation. This is obviously an oversight as each group can easily afford the one dollar minimum. This fund is used for extra expenses such as travel, child care, etc.

Remember, Mrs. Scott Haymond will supply speakers for Church Nights or women's meetings to get started on the campaign to raise the Northern California quota of $147,000 for the Congregational Church Building Loan Fund. A 16 mm film and work packets are available. Each minister was asked to devote at least one sermon to this project and the women's groups to make sure everyone knows how important it is. The population of California has increased 51% in recent years, hence the great need for new churches and buildings.

Has your group sent scraps, suitable for quilt making, to our Indian fellow workers, who, like us, are working for the support of their churches? A few minutes' search in most homes will result in a good supply of leftover material which is of no use to us but will be very welcome to them. Send to Mrs. Frank Workentine, Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Do it now!

Remember Mrs. J. E Enman when you need a speaker. She reports that Miss Harriet Yarrow, from Turkey, will be available after January first until late February. A film on our missionary work in Africa is also available. Mrs. Henry Sax has some good books for children. They should make good gifts for birthdays or for church libraries. The sale of Christmas cards from U.N. Christian Emergency Board was very gratifying, as a dollar paid for the cards also paid for 56 glasses of milk for hungry children. It is remarkable how much one of our dollars can buy in other lands. We shall long remember the interesting skits which she presented during the past year to stimulate our interest in reading.

Mrs. A. C. Ramsey (Foreign Field) reports the several churches visited seem to be quite well aware of African life and need. She reminded us that reading the books is not enough. We must talk Africa, use maps and African Centers at every meeting, to tell the story and get all church women eager to understand and aid the missionary work. She says the women's group is the logical one to bring the missionary work to the attention of the church membership. As she spoke she had a star-studded map of Africa pinned to the front of her blouse so all could see as she pointed out the places in which we have mission stations, schools, baby clinics, churches, and hospitals. In Angola, a Portuguese West African colony, we have several (six or seven) stations. In Rhodesia, a self-governing colony, we have two agricultural and one mission school. In the southern part we have seven hospitals. One of our church pastors in Johannesburg, one of the hottest agricultural districts, has built up a mission for work with the children of a shanty town nearby. Mrs. Ramsey spoke of the many things which we have in common with the women of Africa. Our dependence on the idea of a spiritual life of faith, the love of mothers for their children as they meet them at the door of the home or grieve at the grave of a beloved child. Their love for the home and gardens, even as we love ours. She ended the very interesting talk with the plea, "Let us give more love and understanding."

Mrs. C. E. Ward asked that we make the Thank Offering a year-round program, not just a collection on a certain day in November. Surely, dropping the coins into the container as thanks for meals or for a special blessing which comes to us will help us to grow in our Christian life. Give the boxes out early and select projects for next year. She asked that the names of Thank Offering chairmen be sent to her as soon as they are chosen, that she may send material to them. Boxes and supplies may be obtained at the January meeting.

Mrs. A. M. MacGregor has given beautiful and inspiring worship services during the past year, none better than at the November meeting, making us realize that thanksgiving should be a **way of life**—"always and for everything giving thanks." The Scripture readings were Ephesians 5:20 and Philippians 4:6. The service closed with an original poem. Although it was written for the November meeting, it seems appropriate for every day. Mrs. MacGregor gave us permission to use it.

Thanksgiving or Thanksliving

We gather round our tables
In the autumn of each year
With happy smiling faces
And hearts so full of cheer.
For families are together,
Loved ones come from far away
To meet in sweet reunion
On a glad Thanksgiving Day.

We gather 'round our tables,
Heads bow as grace is said,
While for a fleeting moment
Our thoughts are Heavenward led.
Then the feasting and excitement
Seem to hold us in their sway
Through the swiftly passing hours
Of what we call Thanksgiving Day.

We gather 'round our tables
And as our mirth mounts high
Do we not forget the Father
On whose bounty we rely?
Have we paid to Him our tribute
In a quickly spoken prayer
For all His grace and mercy,
His love and sheltering care?

We gather 'round our tables,
But is it real Thanksgiving?
Don't you think it would be better
If we all just tried **thanks iving?**
Would not prayers and service coupled
Be a fitting way to bring
Gratitude and praise and honor
Unto Christ our Lord and King?

—Mrs. A. M. MacGregor

We gather 'round our tables,
But will some poor soul that day
Sit down to needed, heartening food
Because we passed his way?
Will someone who has drifted
From the Father's loving care
Feel once again the glow and warmth
Of joys he used to share?

MINISTRY TO OLDER PEOPLE OF CONCERN

The Committee on the Ministry of the Church for Older People desires to be of service to the churches of the Conference. There have been two principal subjects of discussion thruout the life of the Committee. First, the possible need for a Congregational home for older people. Literature on the subject has been gathered from all over the United States. With increased longevity and increased cost of care, especially medical care, there are few homes at present which offer life care at any price. Only highly endowed homes or those which charge from $20,000 up are able to give this service. Also the establishment of such a home is restricted by many legal provisions.

For ministers and other Christian workers, Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California, is available. This provides complete retirement facilities for those who are eligible. Simple, comfortable homes and living on a modest retirement basis in a friendly environment and a predominately Congregational community are features which have attracted the nearly 200 retired Christian workers who have chosen to live at Pilgrim Place. Inquiries should be sent to Pilgrim Place, 660 Priscilla Way, Claremont, California.

For laymen and women the committee would like to know whether a "home" in the common use of the term, including meal service and such other services as is usually furnished in such institutions is the desire or whether a cooperative apartment or cottage court, for instance, with central management and recreational facilities, offering congenial companionship, is preferred.

At present there is no definite plan in mind for the Conference to sponsor such a project. Just how such a plan could be carried out is very much of a question. However, the committee would like to hear from the churches and individuals to gain an estimate of the number of Congregational laymen of Northern California who desire such service. With that information at hand the committee would further canvass the possibilities. If ministers of the Conference would inquire in their churches and send any information obtained to Conference office as early as possible it would assist the members of the committee in their activities.

A second subject considered by the committee was what each church can do to make its older members feel that they are useful. Some time ago a query was sent out to the churches of the Conference but few replies were received. The committee would greatly appreciate the following information from each church:

1. Do you have a church program that specifically provides for older men? Older women?

2. If so, please send a brief outline of the program to the Conference office.

3. Is there a public program for older people in your community in which members of your church participate?

4. Would you like suggestions on such a church program?

DOUGLASS ADDRESSES BAY AREA AUDIENCES

Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive Vice-President of the Board of Home Missions, New York, addressed two gatherings on his one-day visit, January 8. Both addresses were in the interest of the Church Building Loan Fund. At noon he spoke to 135 laymen from a score of churches at the First Congregational Church in San Francisco. The same evening he spoke to a large gathering at the First Congregational Church in Berkeley.

The Lodi First Church has available a number of curved pews and pairs of folding chairs. These may be secured at a very small cost to any church which may need them and may be secured as a donation for beginning churches. Write Ernest M. Fowler, minister, 223 N. School Street.

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